

a schedule management system arranged to receive and validate a schedule; and

a content manager system arranged to monitor and control the loading of assets into a video server according to the validated schedule, wherein the assets include video content scheduled for staggered transmission to subscribers of the NVOD system using a plurality of channels, the plurality of channels including a test channel dedicated solely for testing a selected asset,

wherein the content manager includes a graphical user interface configured to allow an administrator to view the selected asset using the test channel to verify the integrity of the selected asset loaded into the video server.

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10. (Amended) A near-video-on-demand (NVOD) system arranged to provide video content to a plurality of subscribers, the NVOD system comprising:

a video server arranged to store the content in a memory;

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a head-end arranged to distribute the content from the video server to the plurality of subscribers over a plurality of channels using staggered transmission of the content;

an electronic program guide (EPG) provider system;

a business support system;

an interface configured to allow an administrator to change prices for a schedule based on a trait of a program within the schedule;

a management processor including a graphic user interface (GUI) to allow an administrator to monitor and control the content of the video server; and

a master scheduler including:

a schedule management system arranged to receive and validate a schedule from a schedule provider, and being responsive to commands from an administrator for processing the validated schedule to generate a finalized schedule of programming events;

a schedule distributor arranged to distribute a finalized schedule of programming events to the video server, the EPG provider system, and the business support system; and

a content manager arranged to monitor and control the loading of assets into the video server according to the finalized schedule.

17. (Amended) A method for controlling a near-video-on-demand (NVOD) system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a schedule from a schedule provider;

validating the schedule;

processing the schedule to generate a finalized schedule;

receiving assets including content;

loading the assets into a video server via a group of channels according to the finalized schedule, at least one of the group of channels includes a test channel dedicated solely for testing purposes;

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distributing the finalized schedule to the video server, to a business support system, and to an electronic program guide system; and transmitting the content using staggered transmission over a plurality of channels to subscribers of the NVOD system.

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20. (Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:
receiving an asset selection command through the GUI screen to select an asset loaded into the video server;
receiving a test actuation signal through the GUI screen; and
sending the asset to a display of an administrator over the test channel for viewing the selected asset.

21. (Twice Amended) A method for validation of scheduling information comprising:
receiving at a master scheduler said scheduling information from a schedule provider;
receiving an asset from an asset provider;
loading said asset into a video server;
verifying an integrity of said asset via a test channel, the test channel being dedicated solely for testing assets in said video server;
obtaining asset information from said video server;
comparing said asset information to said scheduling information;